



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

General of France in 1615. It is much the longest document in the collection, consisting, with the Preface, of exactly one hundred folio pages. The oration which it attempted to refute was the most powerful of the many statements that had been made of the Catholic position. The *Defence* uses the same arguments as the *Apologie*, but with much greater particularity, and deals in detail with the arguments of Cardinal du Perron. It displays considerable cleverness, as in the protest that the deposing power of the Pope, if allowed, might compel a son, established by the Pope in the place of his deposed heretical father, to put the latter to death.

The five speeches which form the last section of the volume are on various political and politico-ecclesiastical subjects, and are much less interesting today than the preceding productions; but the *Apologie* and the *Defence* are still of great importance to all students of those two fundamentally important subjects—the divine right of kings and the deposing power of the Papacy.

J. A. RYAN, D.D.

---

**The Life of Abraham Lincoln.** Drawn from original sources and containing many speeches and telegrams hitherto unpublished, and illustrated with many reproductions from original paintings photographs, et cetera. New Edition with New Matter. By Ida M. Tarbell. New York: The Macmillan Company, MCMXVII. Vol. i, xxxvi, +426 pp. Vol. ii, 475 pp. Price, \$5 a set.

In 1894 the editors of *McClure's Magazine* conceived the happy thought of making their monthly go about our country, into cities, villages and farms, and, like a modern Ruth, collect into one treasury the things overlooked even after many a gleaning of Lincolniana. Reminiscences, pictures, documents—many sheaves of these came to the "Lincoln Bureau" that had been established in the offices of the monthly. "To facilitate the work," says Miss Tarbell, "all persons possessing or knowing of Lincoln material were asked through the Magazine to communicate with the editor. The response was immediate and amazing. Hundreds of persons from all parts of the country replied. In every case the clews thus obtained were investigated and if the matter was found to be new and useful [it] was secured. . . . The work thus became one in which the whole country cooperated."

The unpublished material thus obtained made it possible to have a series of articles on the life of Lincoln up to the year 1858 and, while throwing new light upon obscure portions of the story of Lincoln's earlier years, to correct some traditional errors and misapprehensions. Documentary evidence was unearthed establishing "clearly that his mother was not the nameless girl that she has been believed." So, too, his father "is shown to have been something more than a shiftless 'poor white,' and Lincoln's early life, if hard and crude, to have been full of honest, cheerful effort at betterment. . . . The sensational account of his running away from his own wedding, accepted generally by historians, is shown to be false." The author thinks that the most important contribution she has been enabled to make to the period of the Lincoln and Douglas Debates is the report of what is known as the "Lost Speech," which preceded the Debates by a year, it is true, but which illustrates how capable was Lincoln of grappling forensically with "the Little Giant." The reasons why the speech was "lost" and the happy occurrences that permitted it to be substantially regained and to appear, for the first time in print, in *McClure's Magazine* for September, 1896, are set forth (Vol. i, 292-299). A second series of articles completed the life, and both series, with much supplementary matter, were included in the volume-form in which the life was later issued.

The present edition is a new one, with new matter, and its price indicates the intention on the part of the publishers to make it a popular edition: "In the 17 years since the first edition of this book appeared," says the preface to the new edition, "a continuous stream of new material relating more or less directly to Abraham Lincoln has been flowing to the public," such as the *Diary of Gideon Welles*, the *Reminiscences of Carl Schurz* and the eight volumes of his public speeches, correspondence and political papers, etc., while "the collections of Lincolniana have increased not merely in size but in intelligent arrangement and selection." A new edition was clearly desirable, and the enterprise of the publishers in making its price a popular one deserves commendation. But while the indefatigable labor of the author enabled her to unearth much unpublished matter in the first instance, and later on to condense the materials furnished by other

writers since the year 1900, the method of a magazine-serial and the peculiar character of the portrait-illustrations which used to be a prominent feature of *McClure's Magazine* (the "living documents" idea) combine to give anything but a symmetrically rounded appearance to the life. The emphasis is unduly laid on the early portion of Lincoln's career, not because a proper sense of proportion should demand great emphasis there, but merely because the new material at hand was so abundant, or because previous accounts of Lincoln's life erred either by omission or by misstatement. And so we find the closely crowded and inestimably important years of his life as President taking only 262 pages (including 18 pages devoted to his funeral) for their story, while 278 pages are devoted to his life down to the year 1854—the year when he became really an interesting figure in the general history of his country. True it is that the child is father of the man, and that the unique figure of Lincoln, well-styled by James Russell Lowell "the first American," deserves to have everything we can find about his early career recorded and carefully related to his after years of public service. But the porch should not dwarf the house. Again, an Appendix to the second volume allots nearly 200 pages to a collection of his letters, telegrams and speeches, although these are not a selection intended to illustrate statements in the text (after the fashion of the *pièces justificatives* of French historians), but merely represent matter which was not included in the "Complete Works" of Lincoln edited by Nicolay and Hay or in any other collection of his writings. They do not belong to a "Life" of compass so narrow as to necessitate the exclusion of many things which an ordinary, non-scientific student of history would like to have included to make the background of Lincoln's great figure throw it into greater relief. They should rather be issued as a supplement to Nicolay and Hay's collection. We fancy that he alone who could zealously peruse such a collection would find it possible to "go through" such consecutive and fragmentary telegrams as the following (Appendix, p. 363):

War Department,

Washington City, April 23, 1863.

Hon. Simon Cameron, Harrisburg, Pa.:

Telegraph me the name of your candidate for West Point.

A. LINCOLN.

*War Department,  
Washington City, April 23, 1863.*

*Hon. S. P. Chase, Philadelphia, Pa.:*

Telegraph me the name of your candidate for West Point.

A. LINCOLN.

One might argue in defense of such inclusions as these, that they exhibit the attention to detail given by the President in the midst of heartrending public duties, and illustrate, in brief, how much telegraphing he must have indulged in, as both telegrams are of even date. The contention may be correct; but the collocation or context would rather serve to illustrate just the reverse, since the two telegrams are immediately preceded by one dated April 11, 1863 (no less than twelve days earlier), and are immediately followed by one dated April 29, 1863 (six days later). Did he send only four telegrams between April 11 and April 29? Similarly, the reader would perhaps be encouraged to hunt up (vainly, nevertheless) in the text of the life the stirring events that led Lincoln to dispatch these three consecutive telegrams on August 30, 1862:

*War Department,  
Washington, D. C., August 30, 1862—10.20 a.m.*

*Colonel Haupt, Alexandria, Va.:*

What news?

A. LINCOLN.

*War Department,  
August 30, 1862—3.50 p.m.*

*Colonel Haupt, Alexandria, Va.:*

Please send me the latest news.

A. LINCOLN.

*August 30, 1862—8.35 p.m.*

*Major-General Banks, Manassas Junction, Va.:*

Please tell me what news.

A. LINCOLN.

Our appetite is naturally whetted by these frequent demands for news. But the next telegram is dated September 17 and is addressed to Governor Morton, Indianapolis.

In the two volumes there are fifty-five illustrations, many of them "living documents" of Lincoln, portraits taken after he had grown to the full estate of manhood (the earliest representing him at the age of thirty-nine years), and therefore not quite illustrative of the chronological growth from babyhood to mature manhood in a series of portraits so dear to *McClure's Magazine* of the old days. Then we have his portrait taken in 1858, when he was

forty-nine years old; in 1860, at the time of the Cooper Institute speech; then in the summer of 1860; another of 1860, and also a life-mask of that year; then Lincoln early in 1861, and yet another of the same year; then in 1864, and finally "the last portrait of President Lincoln," with the melancholy legend: "Taken April 9, 1865, the Sunday before His Assassination."

Miss Tarbell always writes interestingly, and there are several crises in Lincoln's career described with admirable fire and brilliancy. The dramatic touch is in evidence wherever the event justifies such a treatment. A copious Index (13 pages) closes the second volume.

H. T. HENRY, LITT.D.

---

**Anglo-American Isthmian Diplomacy, 1815-1915.** By Mary Wilhelmine Williams, Ph.D., Washington, D. C. The American Historical Association, 1916. Pp. ix+356.

The demands of American priority on this continent could be met in Central America only by the exclusion of European control, the paramountcy of United States influence, and particularly by American administration of any trans-isthmian canal. At the time the interest of this nation was awakened to Central America by our westward expansion the possibility of a Spanish challenge to the American claims had been removed by the transformation of Spain's Central American dominions into independent states. But to the United States, as formerly to Spain, the presence of the British in the isthmus presented a problem. The recent Panama Tolls dispute is the latest phase of a century-long process of adjustment; an adjustment always made more difficult by the fact that the British position was something in the nature of an accomplished fact before the emergence of any Anglo-American Isthmian question. In fact British interest in Central America antedated American independence.

In the colonial days of the Americas British encroachments had begun in Belize, the Bay Islands, and the Mosquito territory. Not only were there British settlers but the British government, in disregard of Spanish sovereignty, followed a policy which, while fluctuating, made in general for British political control. The settlement of this Anglo-Spanish question synchronized with the early years of the national life of the United States. Spanish